

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 22, 2022

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

Fairest Lord Jesus

arr. Lani Smith

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 67) Diane Hibbard, Liturgist
May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,
That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

*OPENING UMH# 159

Lift High the Cross

v. 1, 3

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Dear God, you have said that you will be present whenever two or three gather in your name. We welcome your presence and grace with us this morning. We ask, O God, that your presence would grow our knowledge of your divine mysteries and transform our lives forever. And being forever transformed may we be your instruments bringing your grace and peace into the lives of those around us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LORDS PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING John 14:23-29

*HYMN OF PREPARATION UMH# 393 *Spirit of the Living God*

SERMON “Parting Gifts” Rev. Paul Hibbard

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Our lives have been blessed by flowing waters and harvests of fruits. Let us share our harvests with you and your world. We respond by praising your name in prayer. We respond to all you have done for us in gratitude as we collect today’s offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *In Your Presence* Ken Medema

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above the Heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Creator and almighty God, from city to city, you continue to bless our lives. Wherever we find ourselves, the bounty of your peace meets us there. We bring these gifts to you in order to share our bounty, as you have shared yours with us. May those who need these gifts find your presence, even as they receive what they need. May their paths of faith be lit with your light, as ours have been. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD’S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN UMH# 431 *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

BENEDICTION

God has a dwelling place with you. You have a dwelling place in Christ, a source of continual blessing in your life. Go forth to spread God's message, that others may also dwell in peace, and may the love of Christ be with us, now and forevermore. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in C

JS Bach

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The Prayer Corner

In prayer, please remember: the people of Ukraine; from the WUMC Congregation: Bob and Martha Asman; Michael Etcheto, grandson of Barbara Etcheto Kelly Etcheto, Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); Linda Bailey; and our Confirmands: Annabelle Cloud, Cody & Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis

If you would like our confidential prayer team to pray with you or for you, please reach out to Carolyn Shay, 203-518-3177 or 1jerseygirl52@gmail.com

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Woodbury United Methodist Church

Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Meg Temple, Lay Leader

Chris Shay, Director of Music

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT, 06798

203-263-4775

www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Week of May 22, 2022

Visitors are warmly welcomed! If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available on the table at the registration area.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to Pastor Michael. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today:

Diane Hibbard, Liturgist and Reader;

Barbara Etcheto & Sue Vindigni, Greeters and Ushers;

James Levario, Acolytes;

Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician.

Please note: Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, either at home or in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services are also archived on the church's website for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer available.

- **Video:** Go to www.woodburyumc.net, scroll to the link for livestreaming near the top of our home page. A link is also provided for archived videos for later viewing.
 - **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#.
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Schedule For This Week

Today, May 22nd	Confirmand Class 4-6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
Monday, May 23rd	Missions and Outreach, 7 PM
Tuesday, May 24th	<i>Good Enough</i> Bible Study, 6:30 PM, via Zoom
Wednesday, May 25th	Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary Voice Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM, Sanctuary
Thursday, May 26th	Region 14 Transition Academy, 9-11 AM, Assembly Family Nurture, 6:30 PM, Assembly Room
Sunday, May 29th	Memorial Day Picnic in the Courtyard

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on  /woodburyumc

&  /woodburyumc

Lament for Ukraine by Melanie Simmons

Almighty God, our God, Prince of Peace,
why do you allow war?

Our sensibilities are shattered as a people living in peace are disrupted;
a despot invades their way of life.

Like stampeding buffaloes, tanks roll in a path of destruction;
roads are paved with destroyed vehicles and ruin.

Bombs fly like diving birds of prey, destroying homes;
rubble is strewn across the city.

Striking like lightning, drones shoot missiles into communities;
children cry out in fright as their homes are destroyed – who shall comfort them?

Streams of refugees flee on broken roads;
where are the hungry to find food, or the sick to find care?

Places of healing and new life have become areas of death;
the blood of pregnant women and newborns mingles with the dust sifting down upon them.

The elite perpetrators laugh at the distress, like hyenas happy to feed upon their prey.

How long must the innocent be rent by the claws and teeth of those self-centered animals?

Are you not called the Prince of Peace? Where are your people to find you in the midst of this?

We cannot hit “Undo” on what has been done, and our pain and anger blind us to any response beyond what we see directly in front of us.

Where are you, to show us a different response than lashing out in retaliative strikes?

Where are you, to teach the greedy how to share instead of take?

Where are you, to heal the broken in body, mind, and soul?

Where is your saving grace as lives are shredded, with pieces strewn about like confetti?

Stop this war! Stop the fighting, the destruction, the killing!

Turn the drones around, eliminate them from the sky!

Demolish the tanks, drive them back to the country from whence they came!

Beat the weapons of war into tools of restoration and renewal.

Break the hardened hearts of the greedy, those stretching to take what is not theirs:

teach them with first-hand experience why their attacks are wrong;

let them understand personally why destroying homes and families is an atrocity to be prevented rather than pursued!

Cause the soldiers to repent of what they do to their neighbors;

make them understand the truth of the unjustified terror they strew!

Let them turn back to their own country, bearing the truth to its citizens so that all may know the evil their leader sows.

Change the leadership! Overturn the heart of the despot or remove him; remove evil from power, that the needs of people may be met instead of selfish wants!

Curse the greed, the hunger for power, the ambition that has cursed your people!

Let there be peace again, cooperation instead of the tearing apart of neighboring states.

Bring your love to bear, to drive out hate and to heal the wounds of war.

How can people live in harmony again if it takes love to drive out hate, but we are blinded with overwhelming anguish to only see the hate?

How can we talk about heavenly justice when confronted with complete injustice?

How can we talk about a loving God who allows unprovoked pain and suffering?

How can we profess the *hesed* of our God, let alone convince others that you love all people, when war rends families and communities apart?

Shall more profess atheism, saying, “There is no God,” because you do not protect the innocent from annihilation?

How can our faith reconcile your steadfast promise of love and peace with the terror and agony filling our senses?

Yet we know that you have blessed your people, providing grace for those who cry out to you.

The Israelites were redeemed multiple times, repeatedly brought back to the promised land and restored after so many of their children had been systematically murdered.

Your fledgling church survived great persecution to grow into a world power.

When your Church became too corrupt, you provided saints to redirect the faith.

Despite misuse of your name to justify genocide, your Word traveled to the ends of the earth.

When the war to end all wars ended, the world recovered.

The war after that ended with nuclear threat, and you enabled political balance to prevent world annihilation with atomic bombs.

With each devastation, you change the old into a new thing; from a remnant, you create a great nation.

Surely the One who conquered all sin can overcome this intense barrage of it;

the Good Shepherd will carry his wounded sheep to a place of safety and relief.

I will trust in my Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

I will proclaim your glory before all the people, praising your power and chasing your wisdom.

I will walk in the ways of the Lord, that the love of our God may shine through my actions as a beacon of hope in this time of darkness.

